

**Senate Finance and Public Administration Legislation Committee**

**ANSWERS TO QUESTIONS ON NOTICE**

**Prime Minister and Cabinet Portfolio**

**Department of Regional Australia, Regional Development and Local Government**

**Supplementary Budget Estimates 17-20 October 2011**

**Question: 13**

**Topic: Research Activities of the Cooperative Research Centre (CRC) for Remote Economic Participation**

**Asked By: Senator MACDONALD**

**Type of Question: Hansard F&PA 114**

**Date set by the committee for the return of answer: 2 December 2011**

**Number of pages: 2**

**Senator IAN MACDONALD:** Because time is short, could you on notice to tell me what research activities the CRC are funding or supporting that relate to Northern Australia?

**Ms Fleming:** Certainly.

**Answer:**

The Cooperative Research Centre for Remote Economic Participation (previously Desert Knowledge) has a strong record of research in issues relevant to northern Australia and remote communities, including work on: sustainable indigenous livelihoods; creating sustainable economies and industries to support remote communities; and appropriate governance and decision making structures for remote communities.

As a new research centre, the CRC has focused more recently on improving knowledge and management technologies in pastoral systems, Indigenous pastoral and land management enterprises, and managing land use conflicts.

The Office of Northern Australia is an essential participant of the CRC, and is currently involved in projects on: the enduring community value of mining; climate change adaptation and carbon economies in remote Australia; and precision pastoral management tools.

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More generally, The CRC is pursuing the following major research programs:

- Regional Economies (Population Mobility and Labour Markets, Enduring Community Value from Mining, Energy Futures and Climate Adaptation in Remote Australia);
- Enterprise Development (Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Art Economies; Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander Tourism Product; Aboriginal Cultural Enterprise; Carbon Economies in Remote Australia; Plant Business; Precision Pastoral Management Tools); and
- Investing in People (Pathways to Employment; Interplay Between Health, Wellbeing, Education and Employment; Remote Education Systems).